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RECENT LITERATURE.

The Requisite and Qualifying Conditions of Artesian Wells.[1]—Chamberlin.—The central purpose of this paper is to call into prominence the varied qualifying conditions that solicit consideration, and, if possible, stimulate and aid those special discriminative studies which lead to an intelligent confidence of success or a prudent withholding from failure. The author thinks it advisable to map off the face of the country into areas of (1) favorable, (2) doubtful, and (3) adverse probabilities. The areas of probable success would be the relatively low tracts, the areas of adverse probabilities, the relatively high regions, and the doubtful belts would be in between.

Ward's Synopsis of the Flora of the Laramie Group.[2]—In this book the author gives a condensed account of the Laramie Group, together with a series of illustrations of fossil plants obtained from the lower series in Colorado and Wyoming, and from typical Fort Union strata in the valleys of the Lower Yellowstone and the Upper Missouri.

Of the latter there are 131 Dicotyledons, 3 Monocotyledons, 3 Coniferæ, and 2 Cryptogams. The synopsis is in the form of tables, which show at a glance the distribution of Laramie, Senonian and Eocene plants, and will therefore be of great service to a palæobotanist.

Scudder's Insect Larva, Mormolucoides Articulatus, from the Connecticut River Rocks.[3] The presence of these insect remains in the Triassic shales at Turner's Falls, Mass., was first made known by Prof. Edward Hitchcock, in 1858, and they were then considered the larvæ of a neuropterous insect. Since that time various opinions have been advanced as to the affinities of these fossils. Recently Mr. Scudder has reviewed the whole subject, carefully examining hundreds

[1] The Requisite and Qualifying Conditions of Artesian Wells, by Thomas C. Chamberlin. Extract from the Fifth Annual Report U. S. Geol. Survey. 1885.

[2] Synopsis of the Flora of the Laramie Group, by Lester F. Ward. Extract from the Sixth Annual Report of U. S. Geol. Survey.

[3] The Oldest Known Insect-Larva, *Mormolucoides articulatus*, from the Connecticut River Rocks. Extract from the Memoirs of Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. III., No. 13.